Return of unknown diseases

1924. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that strange and unknown diseases return each year in the country to claim a number of victims as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 8th December, 2002; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) It is incorrect to state that strange and unknown diseases return each year to claim a growing number of victims. National Institute of Communicable Diseases investigates diseases outbreaks in different parts of the country around the year on the request of the State Health authorities or as per epidemiological requirement. In most situations, the treatment regimes are well established and containment measures are advocated to the concerned state government authorities. The Government has launched National Surveillance Programme for Communicable Diseases as a pilot project during 1997-98 for early identification of out break of communicable diseases and appropriate and timely response to these out-breaks. The programme is in operation in 101 districts of all the 35 States/Union Territories. An Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme is envisaged to be implemented during the 10th Five Year Plan to further strengthen the surveillance mechanism in the country.

Deaths of pregnant women

†1925. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of death of pregnant women in the country every year and the reasons therefor;

(b) the steps taken by Government to check the deaths of pregnant women; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Data on the incidents of death of pregnant

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.